

ST. MARY

MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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Parish Priest: Father Mark Reilly

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4th SUNDAY OF LENT -LAETARE SUNDAY

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Rejoice! In Christ we are a new creation

On this *Laetare* ('Rejoice!') Sunday at the mid-point of Lent, our liturgy centres on the boundless forgiveness of our loving God. We may choose to turn away from his love, but God forever turns towards us, longing to embrace us with compassion and rejoicing when we come back to him.

In the First Reading God tells Joshua that he has taken away the shame of the people of Israel: their years in exile eating manna in the desert are over. From now on, they eat from the bounty of the land.

The generosity of God's goodness and forgiveness is proclaimed throughout the Psalm. God comes to us in our need and distress, desiring us to put aside our shame and be radiant with his transforming love.

Paul's letter to the Corinthians continues this feast of forgiveness. We are reconciled to God through Christ and in him we are a new creation, liberated from our sins.

Finally, the beautiful parable that Jesus shares in today's Gospel sums up the whole message of the Good News and the promise of reconciliation. This reconciliation is made complete through the events of Holy Week and Easter that we will soon celebrate.

MOTHERING SUNDAY: Today is also Mothering Sunday when we pray in a special way for all mothers both living and deceased, and give thanks for their selfless love.

SVP COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND: At masses this weekend there will be a second collection for the Society of St Vincent De Paul (SVP). Money raised will go towards supporting them on their ongoing work within the Parish, that is, their outreach to those who are poor and in need.

PILGRIMS OF HOPE/ AMBASSADORS OF HOPE: Fr Mark will give a talk on Thurs 3rd April in the church at 7pm entitled '*Pilgrims of hope/ Ambassadors of Hope*' as he explores how we might understand and enter the Jubilee year more fully and become beacons of hope for others.

POPE FRANCIS' WED. AUDIENCE ON 'THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE' 12

Dear Brothers and Sisters: In our continuing catechesis on the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church, we now consider the role of the Spirit in prayer. In the Gospels, Jesus teaches us to pray for the gift of the Spirit, who dwells in our hearts and testifies that, in union with the risen Lord, we are truly sons and daughters of our heavenly Father. Guided by the Spirit, we truly pray as we ought, both personally and in the Church's celebration of the Liturgy. As the "Paraclete", our Advocate and Comforter, the Holy Spirit not only intercedes for us, but also enables us, in the unity of Christ's mystical Body, to do the same for the needs of our brothers and sisters. As we look forward to the coming Holy Year, let us ask the Spirit to bestow upon us, and upon the whole human family, his gifts of holiness, unity, justice and peace.

LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE: Will take place on Tuesday 8th April at 7pm. This is a graced opportunity to experience the mercy and healing that only God can give us. There will be a number of priests to hear confessions.

BCYS YOUTH MASS, *Brentwood Cathedral, Thursday 3rd April from 6pm.* Join the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service for their monthly Youth Mass this coming Thursday. Beginning with pizza in the Cathedral Parish Hall from 6pm, followed by Youth-led Stations of the Cross before celebrating Mass at 7:30pm. For more information you can visit www.bcys.net, follow @brentwoodcys on social media or email gabriellaskinner@brcdt.org

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE WEEKEND: Beginning Experience is a special residential weekend programme for widowed, separated and divorced people, which helps participants with natural feelings of grief and loss. The weekend is led by trained volunteers, who have experienced having to adjust to life as single people again. This next programme will be held on 4-6 April at the Sion Community, Essex; for further details please contact: Mary: 07730 884315, or email BeginningExperience.SoE@gmail.com

COFFEE MORNING: The next dates for coffee morning after 9.30am Mass on a Sunday are 30th March, 27th April, 11th May & 25th May. Everyone welcome, free for all.

9.30AM SUNDAY MASS: If you could lend a helping hand with the children's liturgy or stewarding during the 9.30am Mass on a Sunday, please contact the parish office. You really don't need to do a lot, and it will only be once a month on a rota basis.

SAVE THE DATE...FOR OUR PARISH SUMMER FETE: The Parish will be holding a summer fete on **Saturday 14th June**. This is the first time we have held this event since Covid and we are really looking forward to bring the Parish together on what will hopefully be a beautiful sunshine filled day. Please look out for updates over the next few weeks.

PARISH SUMMER FETE: Calling all small business people, crafters, bakers and entrepreneurs.....we would like to welcome you to set up a stall selling your wares and advertising your business at this years summer fete. Booking is essential and full details can be obtained through the Parish office.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS: Please save the date for the upcoming Life in the Spirit Seminars which are being held in Brentwood Cathedral Large Hall over 6 Tuesday evenings (29th April - 3rd June). Come along to hear inspiring speakers, be filled with the Holy Spirit and travel through your own 'Holy Door' as we celebrate this Jubilee Year. More details will follow shortly.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – 24TH MAY 2025: Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House. If you would like to come please contact Kathy O’Dea on 07932762608 or put your name and contact number on the sign-up sheet, located in the church porch.

HEADTEACHER REQUIRED: Headteacher of St Peter’s Catholic Primary School, Romford, NoR 416, Salary L19-L25, Closing date: Tuesday 22 April 2025 by 12 noon, Shortlisting: Wednesday 30 April 2025, Interview: Tuesday 6 May 2025, Start Date September 1st 2025 or January 1st 20. For further details please see: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

CARITAS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER: This new role within the Diocese will help develop and strengthen our charitable action and ministry. Full time, including some evenings and weekends. Closing date 31st March at noon. More information and application details: caritas@dioceseofbrentwood.org

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: John Dawson RIP & Josie Walsh RIP who have died recently. Please keep their families and all who knew them in your prayers. John’s funeral will take place here on Tuesday 1st April at 11am.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK IN OUR PARISH at home and in hospital, especially: Ashley Baptist, Donal Bergin, Angelina Bush, Ruth Carroll, Anna Gawlik, Malcolm Hilton, Evelyn Hughes, James Goldfinch, Sajy Joseph, Bill, Paul & Margaret Lodge, Lyndsey McCauley, Luiz Eduardo Mota, Eileen Newman, Margeruite Nolan, Eleanor O’Connell, Baby Shae Christy O’Donoghue, Bridget O’Sullivan, Claire Ramm, Phil & Tony Reid, Paul & Jill Ridley, Greta Shanahan, & Anne Sullivan.

FINANCES:

You can make a payment into our bank account, either as a one off, by a regular Standing Order or by scanning the below QR codes. The details are as follows:

Account Name: Catholic Church Hornchurch St. Mary Mother of God

Account Number: 51019058

Sort Code: 40-13-22



To donate £5



To donate £10



To donate £20

NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL:

If you would like the latest newsletter delivered right to your screen every week, simply email hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org and we will add you to our mailing list.

SERVICES/ MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday Vigil Mass	29 th March	6.30pm	Tim, Ellen, Denis, Ted & Marguerite O'Sullivan RIP
Sunday 4 th Sunday of Lent	30 th March	8.00am	Bridie Hayes RIP
		9.30am	George & Helen Habbee RIP
		11.30am	All Parishioners
		5.00pm	Holy Hour with Rosary & Benediction
Monday	31 st March	9.15am	Norah, Mary & Paddy Lenehan RIP Baby Donovan Int & Patsy Davin Int
Tuesday	1 st April	9.15am	Jim & Andrew Shanahan RIP
		11.00am	Requiem Mass – John Dawson RIP
Wednesday	2 nd April	7.15pm	<i>Evening prayer</i>
		7.30pm	Nora Maguire RIP
Thursday	3 rd April	9.15am	Ollie Gilsenan RIP
		9.45-12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		7.00pm	Fr Mark's talk on <i>'Pilgrims of hope / Ambassadors of Hope'</i>
Friday	4 th April	9.15am	Jack Louro RIP
		7.00pm	Stations of the Cross - <i>plus Adoration until 8pm</i>
Saturday Vigil Mass	5 th April	9.15am	Mary Magdelene Adaeke Rafua RIP
		9.45-11.15am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		10.30-11.15am	<i>Confessions</i>
		5.30-6pm	<i>Confessions</i>
		6.30pm	Terry Inkersole RIP
Sunday 5 th Sunday of Lent	6 th April	8.00am	Martin McDonagh RIP
		9.30am	Teresa & Tony Woods RIP
		11.30am	All Parishioners
		5.00pm	Holy Hour with Rosary & Benediction

HOSPITAL: If you are going into hospital this week for surgery Fr Mark will be offering the Sacrament of the Sick after all Sunday Masses. If a loved one is in hospital and would like pastoral care, please let Fr Mark know or contact Helen Miranda on 01708477890
Morning Prayer will be said before all weekday morning Masses at 9am as well as the Rosary after Mass. Also, there is Adoration from 8.15am – 8.45am on Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri